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Iraq: The UN must be given a strong mandate to protect and promote human rights

On the eve of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the future of Iraq, Amnesty International has called on the Security Council to ensure that human rights are central to any future resolution.

"In particular, the Security Council should ensure that the United Nations is given a strong and unambiguous human rights mandate which it must be able to assert with the full authority accorded to it under the United Nations Charter," Amnesty International said.

"The Security Council should ensure that human rights are given a foremost place in reconstruction efforts and should explicitly provide that the protection of all human rights for all Iraqis is the central purpose of these efforts," the organisation stressed.

Amnesty International urged the Security Council to provide the UN with a mandate to investigate human rights abuses by all concerned and, where necessary, to recommend corrective action. It should therefore facilitate, security considerations permitting, the deployment of sufficient number of monitors throughout the country.

The Security Council should also see to it that international experts on justice and the rule of law are sent to Iraq to work with Iraqi experts on the best way to bring to justice perpetrators of past and current human rights abuses in accordance with international standards.

"The protection and fulfilment of the human rights of the Iraqi people must be an explicit purpose for the disbursements under the Development Fund," Amnesty International said. "The Security Council must ensure that international bodies now assigned to oversee the administration of financial contributions act with maximum transparency and accountability to the Iraqi people."

For a full text of the letter, please see: <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engmde141672003>

Public Document

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